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SCRIPTURE LESSONS

FOR

THE DEAF AND DUMB.

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SCRIPTURE LESSONS

FOR THE

DEAF AND DUMB.

BY HARVEY P. PEET, LL.D.

PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.

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PREFACE.

This little work was designed as a part of a series of elementary books prepared with a view to the wants of a peculiar class of learners. In the instruction of the deaf and dumb, the combined lights of philosophy and experience teach us to begin with the simplest possible forms of language, to avoid wholly at the outset, and as much as possible for some time, idiomatic phrases, and to proceed by slow and gradual steps from the simple to the more complex. The ordinary reading books, for children who hear, fulfil none of these conditions. Their use would involve the necessity of introducing serious difficulties of construction long before the pupil is prepared for them, and thus the benefit of a well-arranged course of instruction would be in a measure lost.

Still, it is not always possible, if we would write English, to express certain indispensable circumstances, in a narrative, or description, without an occasional resort to idiomatic expressions. In such cases, the word or phrase is printed in *italics*, to denote that it requires more particular explanation and illustration from the teacher.

The necessity of expressing the first few lessons in

the present tense only, and only with nouns, verbs, and adjectives, has been one of the considerations which determined the order of arrangement.

Without attempting to decide between the theory which would lay the foundation of religious belief in the convictions of the understanding, and the practice which lays it in the pure and confiding heart of childhood, it has been held sufficient, that the order here adopted admits of introducing the Scripture Lessons at an earlier stage of the course, and of making them correspond more fully to the order in which the difficulties presented by the etymology and syntax of our language are to be met and overcome.

In the present work, it has been the aim of the author to make the narrative concise, yet clear and interesting. That in these points his long experience as an instructor has enabled him to be in some degree successful, he is inclined to believe, as well from the expressed approbation of competent judges, as from the results of actual trial in his own school. Having in this, and other instances, assumed the responsibilities of authorship solely in the hope that his labors might be useful, he will feel himself sufficiently rewarded if that hope is not disappointed.

H. P. P.

INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB,
New York, October 24, 1846.

PREFACE

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

THE first edition of this little work having met with unexpected favor, not only with teachers of the deaf and dumb, but with the public at large, the best return the author can make is, by diligently revising the present edition, and endeavoring to make it still more acceptable. Some of the sections have been rewritten, and two new sections added.

The questions in several of the sections have also been remodelled, to agree better with the order of the text. The author would, however, observe, that the object of the questions should be, not so much to draw out, *by leading questions*, the repetition of the text as a mere effort of the memory, as to *test* whether the pupil understands what he has learned, and to invite him to independent reflection.

In a book for children, the pictorial illustrations are not merely an attractive, but an important feature. They help to make the task of explanation

more easy, and if well executed, they make the lessons much more impressive, and thus fix the leading facts more firmly in the memory. In the present edition, greater attention has been paid to this point. The series of cuts will assist the parents and teachers of deaf-mute children to communicate to them the leading facts of Scripture history, thereby affording early and salutary exercise for their faculties, and preparing them betimes for that fuller instruction which they will receive from the word of God.

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SCRIPTURE LESSONS.

PART I.

SECTION I.

GOD.

1. Some men are strong.
   God is almighty.
   Some men are wise.
   God is all-wise.
   Some men are learned.
   God is omniscient.

We are weak, foolish, and ignorant.
God is almighty, all-wise, and omniscient.

2. Men are often weary.
   God is never weary.
   Men often sleep.
   God never sleeps.
   Men often err.
   God never errs.

Men often forget.
God never forgets.
Men often change.
God never changes.

God is never weary. God never sleeps.
God never errs. God never forgets.
God never changes.

3. Men are often wicked.
God is holy.
Men are often unkind.
God is good.
Men are often deceitful.
God is true.
Men are often unjust.
God is just.
Men are often cruel.
God is merciful.

God is holy. God is good. God is true.
God is just. God is merciful.
Good men do wrong sometimes. God always does right.

4. All men have been children.
God has always been God.
All men will die.
God will never die.

God has never been young.
God will never be old.
God is eternal.

QUESTIONS.

2. Does God ever sleep? Does God ever err? Does God ever forget? Does God ever change?
3. Does God ever do wrong?
4. Will God ever die?

SECTION II.

WHERE IS GOD?

5. God is in heaven and everywhere. We cannot see him. He is a spirit. The angels see him. Good men will see him in heaven.

6. We cannot see God, but God sees us always. He sees us in the dark. He knows all we do. He knows all we say. He knows all we think.

7. God loves and will reward the good. God hates and will punish the wicked. We cannot hide from God. We cannot deceive him. We cannot escape him. We must fear and obey him.

QUESTIONS.

5. Where is God? Can we see God? What is God? Who see God? Where will good men see God?

6. Does God see us? Does God *need* light to see us? Does God know what we do, say, and think?

7. Whom does God love and reward? Whom does God hate and punish? Can we hide from God? Can we deceive or escape him?

SECTION III.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

8. We have all sinned. We have been proud and envious. We have been unkind and selfish. We have been deceitful. We have been unjust. We have been angry. We have been disobedient. We have been dishonest.

We must repent. We must pray to God. We must confess our sins. We must be sorry for our sins. God is merciful. He will forgive us.

9. We should be humble. We should be contented. We should be patient. We should be sincere. We should be kind. We should be just. We must obey our parents and teachers.

QUESTIONS.

8. Have all men sinned? What sins have we been guilty of?

What must sinners do? Will God forgive repenting sinners.

9. What should we be?

10. We must not lie. We must not steal. We must not swear. We must not fight. We must not hurt ourselves. We must not hurt others. We must do to others as we wish others to do to us. We must not be revengeful. We must forgive our enemies and love them. If we do not forgive our enemies, God will not forgive us.

11. Our parents and friends love us. They work for us. They take care of us when we are sick. We must love them. We must not grieve them.

God gives us food and clothes. God gives us health and happiness. God gives us friends and teachers. God gives us the Bible. We must love and obey God. We must worship him. We should fear to offend him.

QUESTIONS.

10. What must we not do? What must we do to others? What must we do to our enemies?

11. What do our parents and friends do to us? What must we do to them?

Who gives us food and clothes? What *other blessings* does God give us? Whom must we love and obey? Whom must we fear and worship?

SECTION IV.

THE SOUL IS IMMORTAL.

12. Man has a body and a soul. Spirits have no bodies. Animals have no souls. The body *feels* hunger, thirst, heat, cold, pain, and sickness. The soul hopes and fears. The soul loves and hates. The soul thinks, knows, remembers, and learns. The soul *wills*. The soul sins. The soul repents. The soul is happy and unhappy.

The body dies. The soul never dies. The souls of the good will be happy in heaven. The souls of the wicked will be miserable in hell. If we are kind, honest, and industrious, we shall be happy in this life. If we are good and pious, we shall be happy after death, in heaven with the angels for ever.

QUESTIONS.

12. What beings have no bodies? What beings have no souls? What beings have both body and soul? What does the body feel? What does the soul do?

Have you a soul? Will your soul ever die? Where does the soul go after death? Do you wish to go to heaven when you die? What must you be to be happy in this life? What must you be to go to heaven? *Who will be your companions in heaven?*

ANSWER. 1. Angels and the souls of good men,

SECTION V.

GOD MADE ALL THINGS.

13. A man made this table. It is made of wood. A woman made this dress. It is made of calico. Men made the calico. It is made of cotton. This handkerchief is linen. Linen is made from flax. Bread is made of flour. Flour is made from wheat. Men and women make many things of wood, of cotton, of flax. Can men make wood? Can women make cotton? They cannot. Wood grows in trees. Cotton, flax, and wheat grow on plants. Trees and plants grow from the ground. Men can plant seeds, and *raise* trees, and cotton, and flax, and wheat.

Men cannot make seeds. The seeds grow on old plants. God made the first trees and plants. He caused them to bear flowers, fruit, and seeds.

QUESTIONS.

13. Who made this box? Who made that dress? Who made that basket? Who built that sloop? Who built that bridge?

What is this basket made of? What is that stool made of? What is this paper made of? (Cotton rags.)

What things are made of flour? What things are made of wood? What things are made of cotton?

Can you make a dress? Can you make a sled? Can you make a basket? Can you make calico? Can you make paper?

Can you make wood? Can you make wheat? Can you make grass? Can you make apples? Can you make seeds? Who made the first plants and trees?

How do men get wood, cotton, flax, and wheat? Where do we get seeds? Can men make seeds? Who made the first plants and trees? Who caused plants to bear flowers, fruit, and seeds?

14. A man made this shoe. It is made of leather. Leather is made from the skins of oxen, cows, calves, and other animals.

Men and women made this coat. It is made of cloth. Cloth is made of wool. Wool grows on the backs of sheep. This dress is made of silk. The silk-worm makes silk. This comb is made of tortoise-shell. This hat is made of fur. Fur grows on the bodies of beavers and other animals.

Candles are made of tallow. Butter is made from milk. Men cannot make skins, or wool, or silk, or fur, or shells. They cannot make tallow, or milk. These substances grow *on* animals, or *within* animals. Animals are born from old animals. God made the first animals.

QUESTIONS.

Who made these boots? Who made this vest? Who made that hat? What are saddles made of? What is harness made of? What are muffs made of? What are ribbons made of? What is cheese made from?

What things are made of leather? What things are made of wool? What things are made of bone?

Can you make butter? Can you make shoes? Can you make a coat? Can men make wool? Can men make horns, or bones, or shells? How are animals *continued* on the earth? Who made the first animals?

15. This slate is a stone. Men dug it out of the ground. Men polished it, and put it in a frame. Men cannot make the stone. God made it long ago.

This house is built of bricks. Bricks are made of clay. Cups and plates are made of fine clay. Clay lies in great *beds* in the earth. God made the clay.

This watch is made of steel and silver. A cunning man made it. Men melt steel and silver from ores. Men dig ores out of a deep mine. Men melt them in a very hot fire. Iron and steel, copper and zinc, lead and tin, silver and gold, are all melted from ores. Men cannot make ores. Some men search for ores and mines. They are glad when they

find a new mine. They must work very hard and spend much money to get ores. God alone can make ores.

QUESTIONS.

15. What is this slate made of? Where is the stone found? Who made the stone?

What is this house built of? What are bricks made of? What are teacups, plates, and pipes made of? Where is clay found? Can men make clay?

What is this watch made of? Who made it? How do men get metals? How do men get ores? What are the names of *the most common* metals? Is it easy to get ores? Who made ores?

SECTION VI.

THE CREATION.

16. God made the earth. He made the hills, rocks, and mountains. He made stones and ores. He made earth, sand, and clay.

God made the water. He caused it to flow from springs. The springs flow into brooks. The brooks run into ponds, rivers, and lakes The rivers run into the sea. The sea is very

deep and very great. It covers three-fourths of the earth. God made it.

17. God made the grass, and herbs, and flowers. He made corn and fruit. He made many kinds of plants and trees. He made them grow from the ground and bear seeds. The seeds fall to the ground. The old plants die, and new plants grow from the seeds.

God made the sun, and the moon, and the stars. He made the air, and the wind. He commanded the water to rise in mists. The mists form clouds, and fall in rain, or snow, or hail. The sun and rain make plants grow. God sends the rain and sunshine to cause the grass to grow and the flowers to open.

QUESTIONS.

16. Who made the earth? What things do we find in the earth? Who made the rocks and mountains?

What does water flow from? What do springs flow into? Where do rivers run? How much of the earth does the sea cover? Who made water and the great sea?

17. Who made plants and trees? How are plants multiplied?

Who made the sun, moon, and stars? How are clouds formed? What makes plants grow? What makes the beautiful flowers open? What ripens the pleasant fruit? Who sends rain and sunshine?

18. God made insects, and reptiles, and fishes, and quadrupeds. He made some with wings to fly in the air. He made some with fins to swim in the water. He made some without legs, and some with little legs to crawl into holes. He made some with strong legs to run on the ground. He made some with claws to climb trees. He gave them food. He made most with eyes to see with. He made some without eyes to live under ground.

God made the first man and the first woman. He made them *upright*. He *gave* them *dominion* over all animals, and over all the earth.

QUESTIONS.

18. What animals fly in the air? What animals crawl into holes? What animals swim in the water? What animals run on foot? What animals climb trees? What animals have no eyes? Who made all these different kinds of animals?

To whom did God give *dominion* over the earth and over all animals?

SECTION VII.

THE WORKS OF GOD ARE WONDERFUL.

19. The eye and the ear are wonderfully made. The bodies of men and animals are wonderfully made. The earth, and the trees, and plants, and flowers, are wonderfully made. The most cunning man cannot make a little plant. The most skillful doctor cannot *give life* to a dead fly.

The moon and stars are wonderfully made. The moon is large like many mountains. It does not fall from the sky. God upholds it. God causes it to move round the earth. It gives light by night.

The sun is very great. It is very far off. It is very bright and glorious. It *gives light* to all the world. It warms the world. Plants cannot grow without the sun. Men and animals cannot live without the sun. How wonderful and glorious are the works of God! He is all-wise and almighty.

All those things will be destroyed, but the soul of man is immortal. It is the *most* wonderful of the works of God.

QUESTIONS.

19. Can the most cunning man make a plant? Can the most skillful doctor give life to a dead fly?

How large is the moon? Who upholds the moon and stars? What gives light to the people of the world?

Can we live without the sun? Can plants grow without the sun and rain?

What becomes of the bodies of men and animals? Will plants grow for ever? Will there always be animals on the earth? Will the sun give light for ever? Which of the works of God will last for ever?

Why is the soul the most wonderful of the works of God? (Because it is immortal.)

PART II.

HISTORY OF THE BIBLE.

SECTION I.

ADAM AND EVE.

ADAM was the first man. He was alone. God caused Adam to sleep. God took one of his ribs and made Eve. Eve became Adam's wife.

Adam and Eve lived in a pleasant garden. They were innocent. They did not *suffer pain.* They were never sick. They were very happy. God gave them all the fruit in the garden, except one tree. God forbade them to eat the fruit of one tree.

The serpent tempted Eve. She ate the forbidden fruit. She gave it to Adam, and he ate likewise. God saw them. He called them. They were ashamed, and hid among the trees. God drove them from the garden. God commanded them to till the hard ground.

All men are the children of Adam and Eve. They must suffer pain, and *at last* die, because Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

God pitied Adam and Eve. He promised them a Saviour. Jesus Christ will save all penitent and believing sinners.

The Creation was almost six thousand years ago. Adam lived nine hundred and thirty years. He died about five thousand years ago.

QUESTIONS.

Who was the first man? Who was the first woman? Of what did God make Eve? Where did Adam and Eve live? What did God forbid them to do? Who tempted Eve? What did Eve do? Who gave the forbidden fruit to Adam? How did God punish them?

If we disobey God, will he see and punish us?

Why must all men suffer pain, and at last die?

What did God promise Adam and Eve? Who will save penitent and believing sinners?

How long ago was the Creation? How long did Adam live? When did Adam die?

SECTION II.

CAIN AND ABEL.

Adam and Eve had many children. Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam. Abel was a good man. He loved and worshipped God. Cain was a wicked man. He was envious and passionate. Cain hated his brother Abel, because Abel loved and obeyed God. Cain talked with his brother in the field, and became angry and killed Abel. This was the first murder. God saw Cain. He called him. Cain was afraid, but he could not hide from God. God punished him. Cain became a fugitive and a vagabond.

We must fear to be envious and angry. We may become like Cain.

QUESTIONS.

Who was the father of Cain and Abel? Who was their mother? Had Adam and Eve any other children?

What was the character of Abel? What was the character of Cain? Why did Cain hate his brother? Why should we fear to be envious and angry?

Do you wish to be like Cain? Was Cain happy? Is Abel happy?

SECTION III.

THE FLOOD.

Men grew and multiplied. The world was *full of* people.

Men became very wicked. They oppressed and killed *each other*. They did not pray to God. They did not fear or love God. God was angry. God determined to destroy the wicked people.

Noah was a good man. He loved and obeyed God. God commanded Noah to build an ark. The ark was like a very great ship.

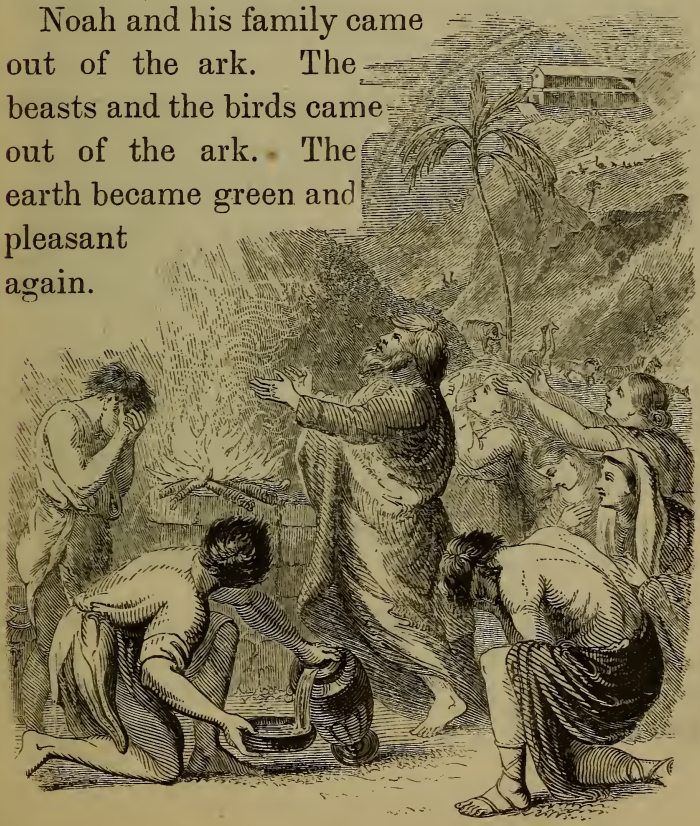
Noah built the ark. Noah and his wife, and three sons and their wives, entered the ark. God caused two of every *kind* of beasts and birds to enter the ark. God shut the door. The wicked people could not enter the ark.

God caused it to rain forty days. All the hills and mountains were covered with water. All the wicked people were destroyed. Only Noah and his family were saved.

After six months the water began to abate. The ark rested on the mountains of Ararat. After nine months the mountains were seen. After ten months Noah opened the window

and sent forth a raven. The raven did not return. Then Noah sent forth a dove. The dove *found no place* to rest her foot. She returned to the ark. After seven days Noah sent the dove again. She returned with a green olive-leaf in her mouth. Then Noah knew the waters were abated. Noah and his family were a whole year in the ark.

Noah and his family came out of the ark. The beasts and the birds came out of the ark. The earth became green and pleasant again.



Noah built an *altar*, and *sacrificed* lambs and other animals to God. God was pleased with Noah. God blessed Noah and his sons; and said to them, "Multiply and fill the earth." God gave them the animals for food.

God promised not to destroy the world again by water. He *appointed* the rainbow as the token of this promise.

At the last day the world will be destroyed by fire.

The flood was about four thousand years ago.

QUESTIONS.

What did men do before the flood? What was the character of the people before the flood? What was the character of Noah? What did God command Noah to do?

What was the ark like? How long did it rain? How high did the water rise? What did the dove bring in her mouth? How long were Noah and his family in the ark? How many people were saved in the ark? How were the beasts and birds preserved?

What did Noah do when he came out of the ark? What did God say to Noah and his sons? What did he give them for food?

Will the world be destroyed again by water? What is the token of God's promise? How will the world be destroyed at the last day? How long ago was the flood?

SECTION IV.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC.

The three sons of Noah were Shem, Ham, and Japhet. They had many children; men

multiplied, and the earth was again full of people.

Men forgot the flood. They forgot God. They became very wicked. The strong men oppressed and killed the weak men. They worshipped idols. Some worshipped the sun, moon, and stars. Some worshipped beasts, birds, and insects. God was angry. He *shortened* their lives. Before the flood, men lived about nine hundred years. Now, they live only eighty or ninety years.

Abraham was a good man. He loved God and trusted in him. God called him to leave his brethren and friends. He obeyed God, and went to Canaan with his family.

Sarah was the wife of Abraham. They were very old, and they had no children. God promised them a son. Abraham believed God, but Sarah laughed. Afterwards Sarah had a son. They called him Isaac. His parents loved him exceedingly.

God wished *to try* Abraham. He commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeyed. He went with Isaac to a mountain. He made Isaac carry wood. He laid the wood in a pile. He bound Isaac and laid him on the wood. He

lifted the knife to kill Isaac. The angel of the Lord called from heaven. He told Abraham not to hurt Isaac. He blessed Abraham, because he obeyed and trusted in God. Abraham looked, and saw a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. He sacrificed the ram *instead* of Isaac.

QUESTIONS.

Who were the sons of Noah? What was the character of the people after the flood? What *false gods* did they worship? How did God punish them? How long did men live before the flood? How long do men live now?

What was the character of Abraham? Who was the mother of Isaac? Why did God command Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? Where did Abraham go with Isaac? What did Isaac carry? Why did Abraham take wood and lay it in a pile? (Because sacrifices were burnt.) Did Abraham kill Isaac? What prevented him? Why did God bless Abraham? Should we obey God and trust in him like Abraham?

SECTION V.

LOT.

Lot was Abraham's nephew. He came to the land of Canaan with Abraham. He was a good man. He lived in Sodom, because the land was *fertile*. The people of Sodom were exceedingly wicked. God determined to destroy them all.

God talked with Abraham concerning Sodom. God said he would spare Sodom, if there were ten righteous persons in it. But there was only one righteous person, Lot. Abraham *pleaded for* Lot. God sent two angels. They warned Lot to leave Sodom with his family. The wicked Sodomites heard that there were two men in Lot's house. They came round the house at night to seize them. But the angels made them blind, and they could not find the door.

Lot went out at night, and warned his sons-in-law. They would not believe him. In the morning the two angels took the hands of Lot, and of his wife, and of his two unmarried daughters, and led them out of the city, and said to them, "Escape *for your life;* look not

behind you." But Lot's wife was unwilling to obey God. She wished to return to Sodom. She looked back, and became a pillar of salt.

God sent fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed five cities of the Sodomites. Abraham rose early in the morning, and looked towards Sodom. He saw the smoke of the country go up as the smoke of a furnace. But God remembered Abraham, and saved Lot and his two daughters alive.

QUESTIONS.

What was the character of Lot? Who was Lot's uncle? Where did Lot live? Why did Lot choose to live in Sodom? What was the character of the Sodomites? *On what condition* would God spare Sodom? Whom did God send to warn Lot? How did the people of Sodom *behave?*

Why did not Lot's sons-in-law escape from Sodom? Who led Lot and his family out of the city? How did God punish the Sodomites? Why did Lot's wife become a pillar of salt? What did Abraham see when he looked towards Sodom?

SECTION VI.

REBEKAH.

The people of Canaan were wicked. They worshipped *false gods.* They sometimes sacrificed their children to idols. Abraham was

grieved. He forbade Isaac to marry the daughters of the idolaters.

Now Abraham was very old. He had many servants and much cattle. His wife Sarah was dead. He wished to see Isaac married before he died. He did not wish to part with Isaac. He kept Isaac at home, and sent his chief servant Eliezer to fetch a wife for his son. Abraham had a nephew named Bethuel. This Bethuel lived in Mesopotamia, many days' journey from the land of Canaan. Eliezer took ten camels, and travelled many days. In the evening he stopped at a well near the city where Bethuel lived. He prayed to the Lord to favor Abraham and Isaac. While he stood at the well, God caused Rebekah to come there with her pitcher to draw water. Eliezer said to her, "Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water out of thy pitcher." Rebekah said, "Drink, and I will draw water for thy camels also." Eliezer asked whose daughter she was. She said she was Bethuel's daughter. Then Eliezer gave thanks to God. He spoke to Bethuel and his son Laban. They said, "It is the Lord's will." Rebekah's mother wished her to stay a few days; but

Eliezer said, Let me go to my master. Then they called Rebekah and asked her, and she said, "I will go." Eliezer gave silver, and gold, and raiment to Rebekah, and to her mother, and to her brother. Rebekah rode on a camel many days. Abraham's servants guarded her. At last they met Isaac walking in the field. Isaac led her into his mother Sarah's tent. He loved and married Rebekah, and was comforted for his mother's death. Isaac and Rebekah had two sons, twins, Esau and Jacob.

QUESTIONS.

What was the character of the people of Canaan? What *horrid* sacrifices did they offer to their idols? Whom did Abraham forbid Isaac to marry?

Was Isaac's mother alive? What was Abraham's *wish* concerning Isaac? Whom did he send to fetch a wife for Isaac? Who was Bethuel, and where did he live? Where did Eliezer stop in the evening? Whom did God cause to come to the well? What did Eliezer say to Rebekah? What answer did she give? What did Bethuel and Laban say? What was the *wish* of Rebekah's mother? Was Rebekah willing to go with Eliezer? How did she travel to Canaan? Where did she meet Isaac? For what was Isaac comforted? What were the names of the sons of Isaac?

SECTION VII.

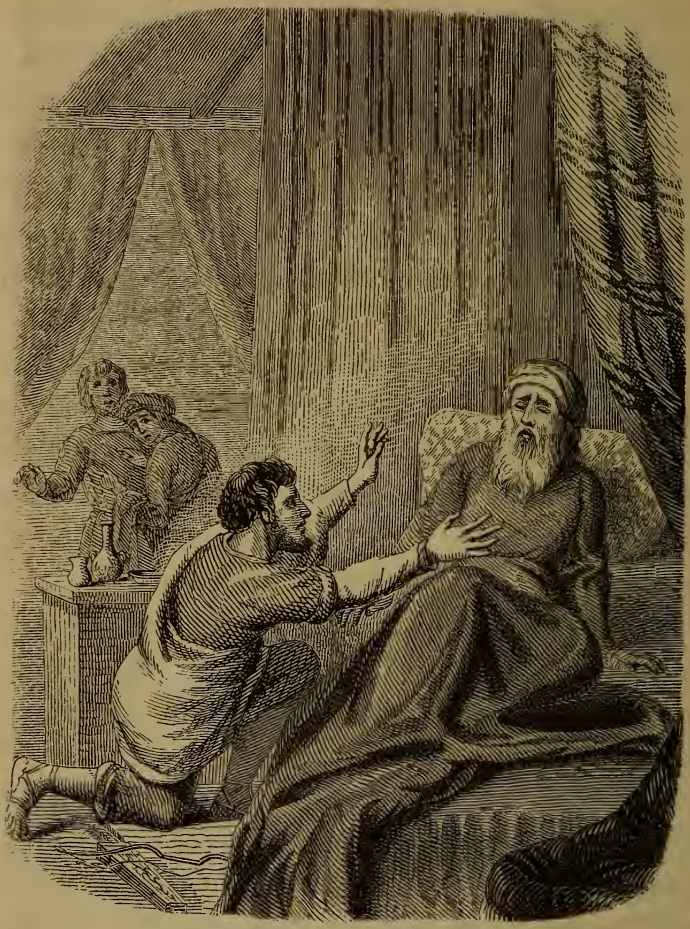
JACOB.

Esau was a cunning hunter, but Jacob was a plain man and took care of the flocks at home. Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of Esau's *venison*, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Esau was a hairy man, but Jacob was a smooth man.

Now Isaac was old, and his eyes became dim, so that he could not see. He wished to bless his son Esau before his death. When the patriarchs blessed their sons, the blessing came from God. The blessing foretold that they *should* be happy and prosperous.

Isaac sent Esau to take venison and prepare savory food. Rebekah heard him. She knew that he meant *to give the blessing* to Esau. She *contrived* to deceive Isaac.

Rebekah called Jacob, and bade him bring two kids from the flock, and she prepared savory meat for Isaac. Also she took the skins of the kids, and put them on Jacob's hands, and on his neck. Jacob carried the savory meat to Isaac. Isaac felt his hands and his neck. He believed it was Esau. He ate and drank, and blessed Jacob.



Jacob went away; and *just then* Esau came in with his venison, and said to his father, "Arise, and eat of my venison, and bless me." And Isaac trembled exceedingly. Isaac said,

"Jacob has deceived me, and I have blessed him, and given him his brethren for servants; and how shall I bless thee?" But Esau wept, and begged for a blessing. Then Isaac gave Esau a *less* blessing, and told him he should serve Jacob.

Esau was angry, and threatened to kill Jacob; but Rebekah and Isaac sent Jacob away. Isaac told Jacob that he must not take a wife from among the idolaters. So Jacob travelled to Padan-aram, to the house of Laban, his mother's brother.

QUESTIONS.

What was the business of Esau and Jacob? Why did Isaac love Esau most? Whom did Rebekah love?

When Isaac was old, what did he wish to do to Esau? When the patriarchs blessed their sons, from whom did the blessing come? What did the blessing foretell?

What did Isaac send Esau to do? What did Rebekah think Isaac meant to do?

What did Rebekah tell Jacob to do? What did she put on Jacob's hands and neck? Who did Isaac believe brought the savory meat to him?

What happened afterward? What did Isaac say to Esau? Did Isaac bless Esau?

What did Esau threaten to do to Jacob? What did Isaac say Jacob must not do? Where did Jacob go?

SECTION VIII.

JACOB'S DREAM.

Jacob slept one night in a field, and put stones for his pillows. He dreamed, and behold, a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

The Lord stood above it, and blessed Jacob, and said, "The land whereon thou liest I will give to thee and to thy children; and thy descendant shall bless all the families of the earth."

Jacob awaked, and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." And Jacob was afraid.

Jacob set up the stones for a pillar, and poured oil on them; and called the place BETHEL, that is, the house of God.

QUESTIONS.

Where and how did Jacob sleep one night? What did he see in his dream?

What did God promise Jacob?

What did Jacob say when he awoke?

What did he set up? What does the word Bethel mean?

SECTION IX.

JACOB MEETS RACHEL AT THE WELL.

After many days, Jacob came to a well near Haran, where Laban lived. There were three

flocks of sheep, and there was a great stone on the mouth of the well. Jacob said to the shepherds, "Do you know Laban?" They said, "We know him." Jacob said, "Is he well?" They said, "He is well; and behold, Rachel, his daughter, comes with the sheep."

Jacob ran and rolled the stone from the mouth of the well, and watered Rachel's sheep. And he kissed Rachel, and wept *aloud.* He told her that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father. Laban went to meet him, and embraced and kissed him; and Jacob lived some years in Laban's house.

Jacob loved Rachel, and wished to marry her; but Laban said he must first marry her older sister, Leah. Therefore Jacob married them both, but he loved Rachel most.

Jacob served Laban fourteen years for his two wives. He served Laban six years for part of his flocks. Jacob feared and served God, and God blessed Jacob. His flocks increased, and he became very rich.

Laban and his sons envied Jacob because he was rich. Jacob left Laban, and returned to Canaan. Esau met Jacob, and they *became*

friends again. Isaac died, and Esau and Jacob buried him.

Jacob had great flocks and herds. He lived in tents, and travelled *from place to place* to find pasture for his flocks. He had twelve sons and one daughter. His elder sons took care of his flocks and herds. His two youngest sons, Joseph and Benjamin, were the sons of Rachel. Jacob loved them most.

QUESTIONS.

To what place did Jacob come? What did he find at the well? What did he say to the shepherds?

Whose sheep did Jacob water? What did he tell Rachel? Who went to meet Jacob?

Whom did Jacob marry?

How long did Jacob serve Laban for his wives? How long for his flock? Did God bless Jacob?

Why did Laban and his sons envy Jacob? Did Jacob leave Laban? Who met Jacob? Who buried Isaac?

How did Jacob live? Why did he travel from place to place? How many children had Jacob? What was the business of his sons? Which of his sons did Jacob love most?

SECTION X.

JOSEPH.

Joseph was the beloved son of Jacob. The other sons envied Joseph, and hated him, because his father loved him most. They were feeding their flocks in the fields, *far from home.* Jacob sent Joseph to see if they were well. They seized him, and cast him into a pit.

They meant to kill him, but Judah advised them to sell him. They saw a *company* of merchants *going* to Egypt. They sold Joseph to the merchants for twenty pieces of silver. They took Joseph's coat and dipped it in the blood of a kid. They carried the torn and bloody coat to their father. Jacob *thought* that some wild beast *had* killed Joseph.

Joseph was carried to Egypt, many days' journey to the south of Canaan. He became a servant to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard. The Lord blessed Joseph, and all he did prospered. His master made him his chief servant.

Joseph's mistress tempted him to sin, but he resisted and fled from her. She falsely accused him, and he was *cast into* prison. But God preserved him. God gave him great wisdom. He interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. He told Pharaoh that there would be seven years of plenty, and then seven years of famine. Pharaoh made Joseph governor of Egypt.

Joseph built large barns. He gathered much corn for seven years. After seven years the famine began. There was no rain. The

green corn and grass dried up. People came from far to buy corn of Joseph. There was no corn in Egypt, or in Canaan. Joseph only had corn. Pharaoh became exceedingly rich by selling corn. Joseph fed the poor who had no money.

Joseph's brethren came to buy corn. They did not *know* him, but he *knew* them. He *treated* them *roughly* at first. He said that they were spies, and cast them into prison. He wished *to try if* they loved their father, and their young brother Benjamin. He told them to bring their brother Benjamin.

The brethren returned home with corn. After some time the corn was all gone. They went back to Egypt with Benjamin. Jacob was unwilling to let Benjamin go; but Joseph had said they should not return without him.

Joseph told his steward to fill their sacks with corn, and to put his silver cup into Benjamin's sack. After the brethren were gone, Joseph's servants pursued them. They searched the sacks, and found the silver cup in Benjamin's sack. The brethren returned with Benjamin to Joseph. They wept, and *begged* Joseph *not to take* Benjamin from his father.

Joseph saw that they loved their father and Benjamin. He told them he was Joseph, and wept. They were afraid, but he forgave them and comforted them. He sent wagons to bring his father and all his family to Egypt.

Jacob and his sons, and their wives and children, went to Egypt. The kings of Egypt *treated* them *kindly* while Joseph lived. Joseph heard that his father was sick. He took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Jacob sat up in the bed. When he saw Jo-

seph's sons, he said, "Bring them to me, and I will bless them." When they came near, he laid his right hand upon the head of the younger son, Ephraim, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head. And Joseph held up his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head, saying, "This is the first-born." And Jacob said, "I know it. He shall be great, but his younger brother shall be greater than he." And he blessed them both, and "set Ephraim before Manasseh." Jacob died in Egypt. Before he died, he blessed all his sons, and foretold what would happen to their descendants. His sons carried his body to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the *burial-place* of Abraham and Isaac. His twelve sons had many children. They were the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israelites. Jacob was one hundred and forty-seven years old when he died. Joseph was one hundred and ten.

QUESTIONS.

How many sons had Jacob? Why did Joseph's brethren hate him? What were they doing in the field? Why did Jacob send Joseph to them? What did they do to him? What *great crime* did they intend? Who

advised them not to kill him? To whom did they sell Joseph, and for what price? How did they contrive to deceive their father? What did Jacob think?

Where was Joseph carried? Which way is Egypt from Canaan? Who was his master? How did he prosper in Egypt?

Who tempted Joseph? Why was he cast into prison? Should we resist temptation as Joseph did? Who preserved Joseph? Whose dreams did he interpret? What did he tell Pharaoh? How did Joseph know this? What *office* did Pharaoh give Joseph?

How many years were there of plenty? How many of famine? Why did the green corn and grass dry up? To whom did people come to buy corn? How did Pharaoh become rich? How did the poor get food?

Why did Joseph's brethren come to Egypt? Did they know him? How did he treat them at first? What did he pretend they were? Why did he treat them roughly? Whom did he tell them to bring? Was Jacob willing to let Benjamin go?

What did the brethren do when the silver cup was found in Benjamin's sack? What did Joseph tell them? Did he punish them? Should we forgive those who injure us, as Joseph did? How did Jacob and his family go to Egypt?

What did Joseph do when he heard that Jacob was sick? What did Jacob say? How did he place his hands? Did Joseph try to remove his father's hand? Which of Joseph's sons did Jacob say should be the greatest? What did Jacob foretell before he died? Where did his sons bury him? How many tribes were there of the Israelites? How long did Jacob and Joseph live?

SECTION XI.

MOSES.

The Israelites multiplied greatly. The Egyptians became afraid of them, and oppressed them. They had a *new* king, who *did not know* Joseph. He commanded his people to seize all the male children of the Israelites, and cast them into the river.

The mother of Moses hid him three months. She feared the Egyptians would find him.

She put him in a little ark of bulrushes, like a little boat. It was covered with pitch. She laid the ark among the flags by the brink of the river. The sister of Moses stood afar off to watch. The daughter of Pharaoh* came to the river to wash herself. She found the child in the ark. She pitied him. She saved Moses, and *brought* him *up* in her house. Moses learned all the wisdom of the Egyptians.

When Moses was grown, he left the king's palace. He visited his brethren. He saw an Egyptian oppress an Israelite. He killed the Egyptian. Pharaoh heard of it. He sent men to kill Moses. Moses fled to the wilderness. He came to Midian. He married the daughter of Jethro, and kept his *father-in-law's* flock.

God appeared to Moses in a burning bush. He sent Moses to reprove Pharaoh. God commanded Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Pharaoh refused. He made the Israelites *work harder*. God sent ten dreadful plagues on Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

At last Pharaoh let the Israelites go; but the next day he was sorry, and pursued them with

* All the kings of Egypt, for several hundred years, were called Pharaoh.

all his army. The Israelites came to the Red Sea. They saw the Egyptians pursuing them. They were afraid, and cried to God. God divided the sea. The waters stood up on each side like a wall. The Israelites passed through the sea on dry ground. Pharaoh and his army followed them into the sea. The waters flowed back, and drowned all the Egyptians. The Israelites saw them dead on the shore. They sang a song. They gave thanks and praised the Lord.

QUESTIONS.

Why were the Egyptians afraid of the Israelites? What did they do to the male children of the Israelites?

Why did Moses' mother hide him? Who saved Moses? Where was Moses brought up? What did Moses learn?

What did Moses do when he was grown up? What did Pharaoh do when he heard it?

How did God appear to Moses? What *message* did God send to Pharaoh? What did Pharaoh do to the Israelites? *Why did he make them work harder?* (Because he was angry with Moses.) How did God punish Pharaoh?

What did Pharaoh do the day after the Israelites left Egypt? Where did he overtake them? To whom did the Israelites cry for help? How did the Israelites pass the Red Sea? What became of Pharaoh's army? What did the Israelites do when they saw their enemies dead?

SECTION XII.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Moses led the children of Israel* to Mount Sinai. God appeared on the mount in a cloud and in fire. The mountain smoked and shook. God spoke to the people in thunder and lightning. God called Moses to come up into the mount. God wrote the ten commandments in two tables of stone.†

I. The first commandment forbids us to worship false gods.

* The descendants of Israel, including men, women, and children.

† These *tables* were not like our *tables*, on which we put our dishes, books, etc., but, as shown in the cut, nearly like *tombstones*.

II. The second commandment forbids us to worship idols, pictures, or images.

III. The third commandment forbids us to swear.

IV. The fourth commandment commands us to keep holy the Sabbath.

V. The fifth commandment commands us to honor our parents.

VI. The sixth commandment forbids us to kill.

VII. The seventh commandment forbids us to commit adultery.

VIII. The eighth commandment forbids us to steal.

IX. The ninth commandment forbids us to speak falsely.

X. The tenth commandment forbids us to covet.

QUESTIONS.

Where did God give Moses the ten commandments? On what did God write them? How did God appear on Mount Sinai?

What is forbidden by the first commandment? By the second? By the third? What is commanded by the fourth commandment? By the fifth? What is forbidden by the sixth? By the seventh? By the eighth? By the ninth? By the tenth?

SECTION XIII.

JOSHUA.

The Israelites were often disobedient. While Moses was in Mount Sinai, the people made a golden calf and worshipped it. God was angry with them, and destroyed many of them. They wandered in the wilderness forty years. God went before them by day, in a pillar of cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire. God sent them manna from heaven, for food. When they had no water, God commanded Moses to smite the rock, and water gushed forth abundantly.

After Moses was dead, the Lord appointed Joshua to lead the Israelites. Joshua conquered many kings, and destroyed their armies. In a battle with the Amorites, Joshua commanded the sun to stand still, and it obeyed him. The people of Canaan were very wicked, and worshipped idols. God took away their country, and gave it to the Israelites. Joshua divided the land among the twelve tribes of the Israelites.

QUESTIONS.

Why did God destroy many of the Israelites? How long did they wander in the wilderness? How did they get food? How did they get water?

Who led the Israelites after Moses was dead? What did Joshua do? What *command* did Joshua *give* the sun? What was the character of the people of Canaan? How did God punish them? Among whom did Joshua divide the land? Who first promised the land of Canaan to Abraham and Jacob, and to their children? (See Section VIII.)

SECTION XIV.

THE JUDGES.

While the Israelites obeyed and worshipped God, and kept his commandments, they *lived in peace.* But often they forgot God, worshipped idols, and oppressed and injured each other; God was angry, and permitted the heathen to oppress them. When they repented, and cried to God, he sent judges to deliver them. Gideon and Jephthah were two of these judges.

Samson was another of the judges. He was the strongest of men. God gave him *his strength* to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. He killed a thousand Philistines in one day with the jaw-bone of an ass. He rent a lion in pieces.

One day Samson went to Gaza, and slept

there. The Philistines shut the gates. They intended to seize him in the morning. He rose at midnight, and took the heavy gates and carried them on his shoulders to the top of a hill.

Samson foolishly married a wicked Philistine woman, named Delilah. The lords of the Philistines offered her much money to betray her husband. She teased Samson till he told her that God gave him strength *as long as* he did

not cut off his hair. She made Samson sleep on her knees, and then she cut off his hair. Samson lost his great strength. The Philistines took him, and put out his eyes. They made him grind in the prison.

One day they *made a great feast*, and praised their false gods. They sent for Samson to make sport. Samson's hair had grown again. He prayed to God to give him strength. He laid hold on the two main pillars of the house and pulled the house down. Some thousand Philistines were *crushed to death*. Samson died with the Philistines.

QUESTIONS.

How long did the Israelites live in peace? Why did God permit the heathen to oppress them? Tell me the names of two of the judges?

Who gave Samson strength? Why did God give Samson his great strength? What did Samson do with the jaw-bone of an ass? What wild beast did he rend in pieces?

What did Samson do with the gates of Gaza?

How long did Samson possess his great strength? Who betrayed him? How did he lose his strength? What did the Philistines do to him?

Why did the Philistines send for Samson? What did Samson do when he came to make sport? How did Samson die?

SECTION XV.

RUTH, SAMUEL, AND SAUL.

Ruth was a poor young woman. Her father's family were idolaters. Her husband was an Israelite. He died when she was young. She left her relations, and went to help her mother-in-law. She went to glean barley and wheat in the fields of Boaz. Boaz was a rich man, and a relation of her husband. He saw Ruth. He heard that she had left her relations to help her mother-in-law. He loved her, and married her. They had a son who was the grandfather of king David.

Samuel was a very good man. His mother

gave him to the Lord when he was a little child. Eli was the high-priest. His two sons were very wicked. One night, when Samuel was laid down to sleep, the Lord called him. He told Samuel he would punish Eli's family. In the morning Samuel told Eli the vision. Some time afterward the Philistines defeated the Israelites in a battle, and killed the two sons of Eli. Samuel was a prophet, and the judge of Israel all his life.

When Samuel was old, the Israelites desired a king. God told Samuel to anoint Saul to be the first king of Israel. Saul was a good king at first. His son Jonathan defeated the Philistines, and delivered the Israelites. Afterwards Saul disobeyed God, and the Philistines defeated him, and killed him and his son Jonathan in a great battle.

QUESTIONS.

Who was Ruth? Why did she leave her relations? What did she go to glean? Who married her? Who was their great-grandson?

What was the character of Samuel? Who was Eli? What was the character of his sons? How did God punish them?

Who was the first king of Israel? What was the character of Saul? How did Saul and Jonathan die?

SECTION XVI.

DAVID.

David was a shepherd. God chose him to be king in the place of Saul. When he was a very young man, he killed a Philistine giant named Goliath, who was about ten feet high. All the Israelites were afraid, and fled from Goliath; but David, trusting God, went to meet him with a stone and a sling. He struck

Goliath on the forehead with a stone, and the giant fell to the ground. Then David cut off his head with his own sword.

Saul envied David, and sought to kill him. Jonathan, Saul's son, loved David, and told him to flee. David fled from Saul to the wilderness.

After Saul was dead, David became king. He defeated the enemies of Israel on every side. God loved David, and helped him.

David was a good and pious man, but he committed one great sin. God punished him severely. Afterwards he repented, and God forgave him.

David was a poet, and wrote many beautiful psalms.

QUESTIONS.

Who was David? How did he kill Goliath? How tall was Goliath?

Why did Saul seek to kill David? Who told David to flee from Saul?

When did David become king? What did he do?

What was the character of David? Did he commit any sins? Did God punish him? Did David repent?

If you sin like David, and do not repent, will God forgive you?

What did David write?

SECTION XVII.

ABSALOM.

Absalom was *one of* David's sons. He was a very beautiful, but wicked young man. He stole the hearts of *many of* the Israelites, and rebelled against his father. David fled from Absalom. Absalom *pursued* him *with* a great army. David's old soldiers were *faithful to* him. They fought, and defeated Absalom's army. Absalom rode under an oak-tree. His long hair caught fast in the tree. His mule went from him, and left him hanging in the tree by his hair. Joab, the captain of David's army, saw him. He took three darts, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, and killed him. David wept for Absalom.

QUESTIONS.

Who was Absalom? What was his character? What did he do? Who were faithful to David? Did Absalom's army conquer David? How did Absalom lose his life? Who killed him? Does God permit wicked men to prosper?

SECTION XVIII.

SOLOMON.

When David was dead, his son Solomon became king. Solomon was the wisest of men. He had great riches. He lived in peace. All the kings and nations around *respected* and *honored* him.

Solomon built a magnificent temple to the Lord in Jerusalem.

When Solomon was old, he took many wives from the idolaters. He suffered his wives to build altars to strange gods. God was angry with Solomon, and took away part of the kingdom from his son. The *descendants* of David and Solomon reigned over the Jews in Jerusalem. They were the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Other kings reigned over Israel in Samaria.

QUESTIONS.

Who succeeded David? What was the character of Solomon? Who respected and honored Solomon?

What did Solomon do when he grew old? Why was God angry with Solomon? Where did the descendants of Solomon live? Over what tribes did they reign? Where did the kings of Israel live?

SECTION XIX.

AHAB.

Ahab was one of the kings of Israel. He was a very wicked man. His wife Jezebel was a very wicked woman. She was an idolater, and caused the Israelites to forsake God and worship idols. She killed many prophets of the Lord. Obadiah, a good man, was the governor of Ahab's house. He hid a hundred prophets in a cave, and fed them with bread and water. Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet Elijah, but he escaped from her and travelled forty days into the wilderness.

Ahab coveted the vineyard of a poor man named Naboth. Naboth refused to sell his father's land. Ahab was much displeased. His wife Jezebel procured men who falsely accused Naboth of blasphemy. Naboth was stoned to death. Then Ahab went *to take possession of* the vineyard. God sent the prophet Elijah to reprove him. Elijah told Ahab that dogs should lick his blood; also the Lord said that dogs should eat Jezebel.

Afterward Ahab was killed in battle, and dogs licked his blood. Jezebel was thrown from a window, and the dogs devoured her. Remember, that God will surely punish the wicked.

QUESTIONS.

Who was Ahab? What was his character? Who was Jezebel? What was her character? What did she do to the prophets of the Lord? Who was Obadiah? How did he save the prophets? Whom did Jezebel threaten to kill? How did Elijah escape?

Whose vineyard did Ahab covet? Why did Naboth refuse to sell? (Because it was his father's land.) How did Jezebel cause Naboth to be stoned to death? Whom did God send to reprove Ahab?

What was the end of Ahab and Jezebel? Will God punish the wicked?

SECTION XX.

ELIJAH AND ELISHA.

In the days of Ahab and Elijah, there was no rain in Israel for three years. There was a *great* famine. God told Elijah to hide himself by the brook Cherith. God sent ravens to feed him. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and evening, and he drank the water of the brook. At last the brook *dried up*. God sent Elijah to live with a poor wid-

ow. She had only a little meal and oil, but God caused her meal and oil *to last* as long as Elijah lived with her.

After many days, the son of the widow was sick, and died. Elijah prayed to the Lord, and the child lived again.

Elijah did not die as other men. God sent horses and a chariot of fire, and took him up to heaven.

Elisha was the friend and disciple of Elijah. He saw Elijah ascend to heaven in a chariot of fire. He became a prophet in his place.

One day a company of wicked children mocked Elisha. God sent two bears, which destroyed forty-two of them.

QUESTIONS.

When was there no rain in Israel, and for how many years? What did God tell Elijah to do? How did Elijah get food when he hid himself by the brook? With whom did Elijah live, after the brook dried up? How did the widow procure food?

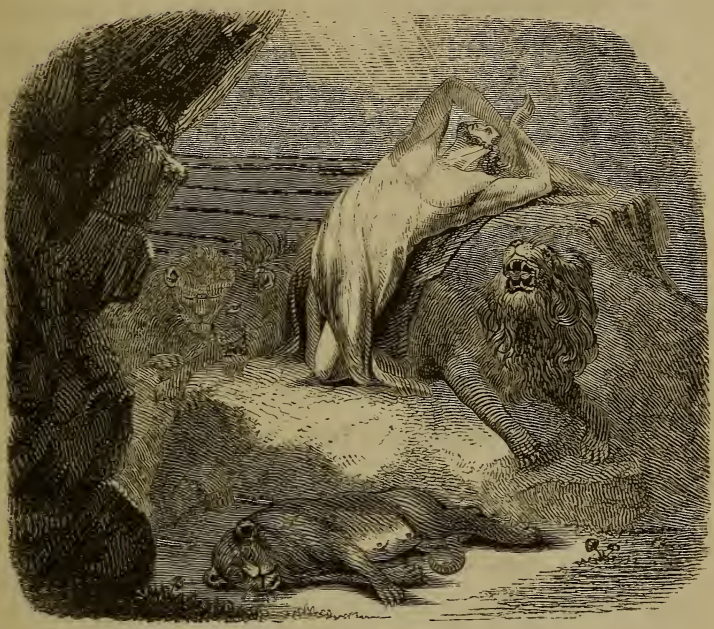
What happened to the son of the widow?

Did Elijah die like other men? How did he ascend to heaven?

Who was Elisha?

What happened to the wicked children who mocked Elisha?

SECTION XXI.



DANIEL.

The Jews often forgot the true God. They *did wickedly* and worshipped idols. God punished them again and again. He often sent prophets to reprove and warn them, but still they did wickedly. At last God sent the king of Babylon, who carried all the chief men of the Jews to Babylon. They were captives at Babylon seventy years.

Daniel was one of the Jews who were carried

to Babylon. He was a very wise and prudent man, and also very pious.

One night the king of Babylon made a great feast to a thousand lords. While they were merry with wine, and were praising their idols, they saw a hand that came and wrote on the wall. They were afraid, and the king's knees shook and struck together. He called his wise men, but they could not read nor interpret the writing. Then they called Daniel. Daniel read and explained the writing. He reproved the king for his pride and idolatry. He told him that God had taken away his kingdom, and given it to the Medes and Persians.

In the same night Darius, king of the Medes, and Cyrus, king of the Persians, with their armies, entered Babylon, and killed the king of Babylon; and Darius became king.

Darius loved Daniel, and set him over all his princes. The other princes hated Daniel, and conspired to destroy him. They persuaded Darius to make a wicked decree, that no one should pray to any god but Darius, for thirty days. They watched Daniel, and found him praying to the God of Israel. They told the king. Darius was very sorry, but because he

had said so, he permitted them to throw Daniel into the den of lions. They shut the door of the den with a great stone, and sealed it. The king went home, and could not sleep all night.

The next morning early, the king went in haste to the den of lions, and called Daniel; and Daniel said, "My God has sent his angel, and has shut the lions' mouths." Then the king was exceeding glad, and commanded his servants to take Daniel out of the den. Then he commanded them to seize the wicked men who conspired to destroy Daniel, and cast them into the den; and immediately the lions broke their bones in pieces.

QUESTIONS.

What was the character of the Jews? How did God finally punish them?

Who was Daniel? What was his character?

What strange thing happened at the king of Babylon's feast? How did Daniel interpret the writing?

What became of the king of Babylon?

Who conspired to destroy Daniel? What decree did they persuade Darius to make? Did Daniel obey the wicked decree? What was done to Daniel? How did the king pass the night?

What did Daniel say in the morning? What was done with Daniel's enemies?

SECTION XXII

ESTHER.

After Cyrus, there was a mighty king of Persia named Ahasuerus. He reigned from India to Ethiopia, over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces. He *put away* his queen Vashti, because she refused to come out and show herself to his princes and great men when he sent for her. He married *instead* a wise and beautiful, but poor Jewish maiden, named Esther.

Haman was the favorite of Ahasuerus. He was proud, envious, and revengeful. When

he entered the king's palace, all the king's servants bowed and reverenced Haman; only Mordecai, a Jew, refused to reverence him. Haman hated Mordecai exceedingly. He did not know that Mordecai was Esther's kinsman, who brought her up. He conspired to destroy both Mordecai and all the Jews. He deceived Ahasuerus, and persuaded him to make a decree, that on a certain day, all the Jews, men, women, and children, should be slain, and their goods taken *for a prey.* The day was near, and there was great mourning among the Jews.

Mordecai sent to Esther, to charge her that she should go in unto the king, and speak for the Jews. Esther replied that the law was, that if any man or woman should go in unto the king in the inner court, without being called, that person should die, *unless* the king held out the golden sceptre. And Esther said, "The king has not called me. But let all the Jews *fast* for me three days; and I also and my maidens will fast. And I will go in unto the king, and risk my life to save you." On the third day Esther put on her *royal apparel*, and stood before the king. And when the king

saw her, his *heart* was *moved* towards her. He held out the golden sceptre towards her, and promised to grant her *request*. Esther told him of the deceit and wickedness of Haman. The king was angry. He caused Haman to be hanged on his own gallows, fifty cubits high, which he had made for Mordecai. And the king gave the house of Haman to Esther, and he made Mordecai his chief officer. The mourning of the Jews was turned to rejoicing.

QUESTIONS.

Who was Ahasuerus? Over how many provinces did he reign? Why did he put away his queen? Whom did he marry instead?

Who was the favorite of Ahasuerus? What was the character of Haman? Why did he hate Mordecai? Who was Mordecai? Did Haman know he was the queen's kinsman? How did Haman contrive to be revenged on Mordecai? What decree did he persuade the king to make?

What message did Mordecai send to Esther? What reply did she make? Was it dangerous for Esther to go to the king without being called? What did she desire the Jews to do for her? Did Ahasuerus *show favor* to Esther? What did Esther tell the king? How did he punish Haman? Was Haman justly punished? What did the king do for Mordecai? Did the Jews rejoice?

SECTION XXIII.

JONAH.

Jonah was a prophet, who lived in Israel before the Jews were carried to Babylon. God commanded him to go to the great city of Nineveh, and preach to the people. Jonah disobeyed God. He fled from God, and entered a

ship, and sailed for Tarshish. God caused a great tempest. The sailors were afraid, and called Jonah from the cabin, and bade him pray to God. Jonah confessed to them that the tempest arose because God was angry with him. He told them to throw him into the sea. They threw Jonah into the sea, and the tempest ceased.

God had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. God kept him alive.

Jonah repented, and prayed to God. God caused the fish to throw Jonah out on dry land. Jonah went to Nineveh, and preached to the people. They repented, and God forgave them.

QUESTIONS.

Who was Jonah? Where did he live? What did God command Jonah to do? Where did Jonah go to escape God? How did God punish him? What did Jonah advise the sailors to do? Did the tempest cease when Jonah was out of the ship?

What became of Jonah? How could he live in the belly of the fish?

How did he escape? Did he obey God afterward? Did the people of Nineveh repent?

SECTION XXIV

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.

After the Jews returned from Babylon, they were conquered by the Romans. A wicked Jew, named Herod, was king of part of the

Jews under the Romans, but the Romans appointed governors, and sent soldiers to keep the country.

Four thousand years after the Creation, two thousand years after Abraham, and one thousand years after Solomon, Jesus Christ was born. He was the Saviour whom God promised to Adam and Eve. He was descended from Abraham and from David. God promised Abraham and Jacob that their descendant should bless all the nations of the earth. The prophets often prophesied concerning Jesus. They foretold that he should be born at Bethlehem, a town in Judea, about six miles from Jerusalem.

God sent the angel Gabriel to tell the virgin Mary that she should be the mother of Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God. No man was his father, but Joseph the carpenter was supposed to be his father, because he married Mary. Joseph and Mary were both descended from king David.

Joseph and Mary were both obliged to go to Bethlehem. Because the inn was full, they passed the night in a stable. Jesus was born in the stable, and they laid him in a manger.

The same night shepherds who were watching their flocks, saw a great light, and heard a multitude of angels singing, and giving glory to God because the Saviour was born. The angels sent the shepherds to Bethlehem, where they found the child Jesus lying in the manger, and worshipped him.

QUESTIONS.

What nation conquered the Jews after they returned from Babylon? Who was king of part of Judea?

How many years were there from the Creation to the birth of Christ? How long ago was the birth of Christ?

From whom was Christ descended? Who was Christ's father? Who was supposed to be his father? Who was his mother?

Where was Jesus born?

What did the shepherds see that night? What glad news did they hear? Where did they find Jesus?

SECTION XXV.

THE WISE MEN, AND THE MASSACRE OF THE CHILDREN.

At the time of the birth of Christ, certain wise men in the East saw a bright star. God revealed to them that Christ was born. They followed the star, and came to Jerusalem. They told king Herod. They still followed the star, and found the child Jesus, and wor-

shipped him, and *brought gifts* of gold and spices. Then they returned to their own country. God commanded them not to tell Herod where the child was.

The wicked king Herod was afraid that Jesus would be king. He sought to kill the child. He sent his soldiers to kill all the children in Bethlehem, and near it. He thought that Jesus could not escape. But God warned Joseph in a dream, and he arose by night, and put Mary and the child on an ass, and escaped to Egypt, and staid there till Herod was dead. Then God told them to return. They came and dwelt at Nazareth.

Jesus was obedient to his parents. He increased in *stature* and *wisdom*, and the grace of God was on him.

QUESTIONS.

What did the wise men of the East see at the birth of Christ? How did they know that the star was a token of Christ's coming? How did they find the child Jesus? What did they do when they found the child?

Why did Herod send his soldiers to kill the children of Bethlehem? How did Jesus escape from the massacre? Where did the parents of Jesus flee? Where did they live after they returned from Egypt?

What is said of the infancy and youth of Jesus?

SECTION XXVI.

BAPTISM, PREACHING, AND MIRACLES OF CHRIST.

When Jesus was about thirty years old, John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Many people repented and confessed their sins, and were baptized by John.

Jesus also was baptized; and the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God descended like a dove, and rested on him; and there came a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son."

Jesus, after he was baptized, was forty days in the wilderness. The devil came and tempted him, and Jesus resisted the temptation, and the devil left him.

Christ chose twelve apostles, and sent them to preach the Gospel, and gave them power to work miracles. He had also many other disciples that followed him, and believed in him.

The Saviour was very kind to little children. One day when young children were brought to him, he took them up in his arms, and

blessed them, and said, "Of such is the kingdom of God."

During three or four years, Christ travelled from place to place. He preached the Gospel to the people, he reproved sinners, he promised eternal life to those who would repent, he healed many sick persons, he cast out evil spirits. At his word the blind saw, the deaf heard, the dumb spoke, the lame walked, and the dead lived again. He walked on the sea, he stilled the tempest, and he twice fed many thousand persons with a few loaves and fishes. He *worked* these miracles to prove that he was sent from God. Many persons believed in him and loved him, and obeyed his precepts; but the scribes and Pharisees hated him, and con-

spired to kill him, because they were hypocrites, and Christ detected them, and reproved them.

Our Lord, in his last journey to Jerusalem, came to the Mount of Olives. He sent two disciples to Bethphage, to bring to him an ass with her colt. Jesus rode on the colt. Many people strewed their garments and branches of trees in the way. He went into the temple, and drove out the buyers and sellers. He cured many diseased persons. The children cried in the temple, and said, "Hosanna to the Son of David."

QUESTIONS.

Who baptized Christ? How old was he when he was baptized? What happened when Christ was baptized?

How long was Jesus in the wilderness? Who tempted him?

How many apostles did Christ choose? What power did he give them?

What did Jesus do to young children?

What did Christ do during three or four years? What miracles did Christ perform? Why did he perform miracles? Who hated Christ, and why?

Why did Jesus send two disciples to Bethphage? What happened on the way? What did he do in the temple? What did the children say?

SECTION XXVII.

JUDAS BETRAYS CHRIST.

Christ knew that he must die on the cross for the sins of men. He often spoke to his disciples of his death. He told them that he must die to save them.

The evening before his death, after he had eaten the last supper with his disciples, he retired to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. There he suffered great agony, and sweat drops of blood.

Judas, one of the twelve apostles, went to the chief-priests and Pharisees, and offered to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. He knew that Jesus went often to the garden to pray. He led a company of soldiers to the garden. He told them to seize the man he should kiss. It was the custom, *in those times*, for friends to kiss each other when they met.

Judas went up to Jesus, and said, "Hail, Master!" and kissed him. Then the soldiers seized Jesus, and bound him.

Christ could have commanded legions of angels to come to assist him, but he suffered the soldiers to seize and bind him, because he came into the world to die for the sins of men.

The multitude led Jesus to the palace of the high-priest. They crowned him with thorns, mocked him, spit upon him, and buffeted him. They then led him to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate inquired what he had done, and found he had committed no crime. He declared Jesus innocent, and wished to release him. But the Jews clamored for his death; and Pilate, to please them, ordered him to be crucified.

QUESTIONS.

Did Christ know that he must die? Why did Christ come into the world?

When and where did Christ suffer great agony?

Who betrayed Christ? By what token did he betray him?

Why did not Christ summon angels to assist him?

How did the multitude treat Christ? What did Pilate say of Christ? Why did Pilate order him to be crucified?

SECTION XXVIII.

THE CRUCIFIXION.

When Judas saw that Christ was condemned to die, he was sorry, and went and hanged himself in despair.

The Jews led Jesus to a place called Calvary, where they nailed him to the cross between two thieves.

Many of the Jews reviled him, and said, "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross." One of the two thieves also reviled him; but the other thief reproved his fellow, and said to Christ, "Lord, remember me when thou comest to thy kingdom." Jesus answered him, "To-day thou shalt be with me in paradise."

The crucifixion of Christ was on Friday, in the fore part of April. Christ was nailed to the cross at nine o'clock in the morning, and he hung there in agony about six hours. From noon to three o'clock, the sun was hidden, and there was a great darkness. Christ prayed to God to forgive his enemies. He saw his mother weeping at the foot of the cross, and he charged John, his beloved disciple, to take care of her, and be a son to her. When he died the vail of the temple was rent, the earth quaked, the graves opened, and many holy persons rose from the dead.

Joseph of Arimathea, a rich man, who was one of Christ's disciples, went to Pilate, and

begged the body of Jesus. Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, went with him, for the apostles were afraid, and had fled. Joseph and Nicodemus buried Jesus in a new tomb hewn in a rock. This tomb was in a garden. The chief-priests remembered that Jesus had said he would rise from the dead on the third day. They set a guard of soldiers round the tomb. They rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and sealed it. The body of Jesus lay in the tomb from Friday evening till Sunday morning.

QUESTIONS.

What became of Judas, who betrayed Christ?

Where was Jesus crucified, and between whom?

What did the Jews say to Jesus while he hung on the cross? What did one of the thieves on the cross say to Jesus? What did Jesus answer?

On what day was the crucifixion? At what hour was Christ nailed to the cross? How long did he hang on the cross? What happened while Jesus was on the cross? What prayer did Christ make for his enemies? What charge did he give his beloved disciple John? What happened when Christ died?

Who buried Jesus? Why did not the apostles assist them? How did the chief-priests secure the door of the tomb? Why did they take care to secure the door of the tomb? How long did the body of Christ lie in the tomb?

SECTION XXIX.

THE RESURRECTION.

On the third day after he was crucified, which was the first day of the week, and is now the Christian Sabbath, Christ rose from

the dead. An angel descended, and rolled the great stone from the door of the tomb. The guard became like dead men for fear. They fled to the city.

Three pious women, who loved Christ, came early in the morning with spices to anoint his body. They found him risen from the dead. They ran and told the apostles. Afterward Jesus appeared several times to his disciples. He ate, drank, and conversed with them. He showed them the holes in his hands and feet. He remained on earth, after his resurrection, forty days. He commanded his disciples to go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He called together his disciples, and led them to a mountain, and blessed them, and ascended up to heaven.

QUESTIONS.

On what day did Jesus rise from the dead? Who rolled away the stone? What did the guard do?

Who came early in the morning to the tomb, and why? What did the women do when they found Jesus risen? How did Christ prove that he was risen from the dead? What commandment did he give to his disciples? How long did Jesus continue on earth after his resurrection? What did he do at the end of the forty days?

SECTION XXX.

THE APOSTLES AND FIRST MARTYRS.

After Christ had ascended to heaven, the apostles and disciples preached the Gospel in many cities and countries, and performed many miracles. Many people believed, and were baptized. But the Jews hated the Christians, and persecuted them. One of the disciples, a very good man, named Stephen, was stoned to death by the Jews. He died praying for his enemies.

Saul, afterward called Paul, was one of the murderers of Stephen. He fiercely persecuted the Christians. One day Christ called to him from heaven; there was a very bright light, and Paul was struck blind. Christ called him to preach the Gospel. Paul obeyed, his sight was restored, and he became an apostle, and travelled through many countries, and preached the Gospel boldly. The Jews and idolaters often beat or stoned him, but God preserved him many years. He was at last beheaded at Rome.

Peter was the chief of the apostles. He was very active and zealous. He preached boldly, and worked many miracles. There was a very

good and charitable woman named Dorcas, who often made garments for the poor. She fell sick and died. They sent for Peter. He prayed, and Dorcas opened her eyes and sat up. Many people saw her, and believed in Christ.

Afterward Herod—a son of that Herod who killed the children of Bethlehem—cast Peter into prison. He intended to kill him, but God sent an angel and delivered him.

John was the youngest of the apostles. He was the beloved disciple of Christ. When Christ hung on the cross, he charged John to take care of his mother as long as she lived. John lived many years. He survived all the other apostles. He wrote a book of prophecies called the Revelation.

Most of the apostles, and many of the other disciples, became martyrs. The heathen persecuted them cruelly, because they would not worship idols and false gods. Some were crucified, some were stoned to death, some were torn in pieces by wild beasts, and some were burned alive. But they died praising God, and despising the pains of death. They knew that their torments would soon be over, and then they should be for ever happy in heaven.

About thirty-six years after the death of Christ, the Jews rebelled against the Romans. A Roman army came and destroyed Jerusalem. Many of the Jews perished. Since then the Jews have been scattered among all nations, because they disobeyed God and rejected Christ. The Turks now possess the land of Judea.

QUESTIONS.

What did the apostles and disciples do after Christ had ascended to heaven? What did the Jews do to Stephen?

How was Saul converted?

What miracle did Peter perform?

How did Peter escape from Herod?

Who was the beloved disciple of Christ? What book did John write?

How did most of the apostles die?

What became of Jerusalem and the Jews? Where do the Jews now live? Who now possess the land of Judea?

GOD'S COMMANDS BY MOSES.

Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in earing-time and in harvest thou shalt rest. Exod. 34 : 21.

Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God. Lev. 19 : 32.

Cursed be he that *setteth light by* his father or his mother. Deut. 27 : 16.

Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling-block before the blind. Lev. 19 : 14.

If a stranger sojourn with thee, ye shall not vex him. Lev. 19 : 33.

Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in mete-yard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, and just weights shall ye have. Lev. 19 : 35, 36.

Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale-bearer among thy people. Lev. 19 : 16.

Thou shalt not remove thy neighbor's land-mark. Deut. 19 : 14.

Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another. Lev. 19 : 11.

Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him. The wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee. Lev. 19 : 13.

The substance of the ten commandments is in this book, Section XII. of Part II. Read them in full in the 20th chapter of Exodus, verses 3–17.

PRECEPTS OF CHRIST.

A lawyer asked Jesus, Master, which is the great commandment of the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind: this is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Matt. 22 : 36–39.

OUR SAVIOUR'S GOLDEN RULE.

All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets. Matt. 7–12.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another. John 13 : 34.

Jesus commands us to forgive and pray for those who injure us. When he hung on the cross, he prayed for his murderers.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. Psalm 95 : 6.

It is our duty to worship God, and to pray always. Those who never worship God and never pray, become hardened in sin, and go swiftly to destruction.

Christians assemble to worship God every Sabbath-day. A Christian family worships God every morning and evening. Every Christian prays often in private.

The worship of God consists of praise, thanksgiving, and prayer. Older and wiser Christians teach and exhort the younger, or warn the impenitent, and read and explain the word of God in the Holy Bible.

Those who hear, praise God in divine songs and hymns. The deaf cannot hear songs, the dumb cannot sing; but they can praise God by signs, and in their hearts and thoughts give him glory.

Thanksgiving is from the heart. God abhors those who thank him with their lips while they are not thankful at heart.

When we worship God in public, or when

we pray in private, we must put away all evil thoughts; we must pray for God's grace to make us kind, forgiving, and humble.

Christ has taught us to pray in this manner:

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

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